



Budget Panel
13 October 2008

**Report from the Director of
Policy & Regeneration**

For Action

Wards Affected:
ALL

Brent's Improvement & Efficiency Action Plan

1.0 Summary

1.1 The Improvement and Efficiency Action Plan sets out the next steps in Brent Council's four year Improvement and Efficiency Strategy.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That members of the Budget Panel discuss the action plan and how they would like to scrutinise the eight work strands identified.

3.0 Detail

3.1 Brent Council's Improvement and Efficiency Strategy was launched a year ago and represented an integrated response to the challenges the council faces both locally and nationally in making real differences to the life experiences of communities in Brent.

3.2 The Improvement and Efficiency Strategy set out three themes aimed at driving service improvement and using resources more efficiently. These were:

- Once Council
- Raising performance and maximising efficiency
- Delivering major projects

3.2 The consequences of the national financial situation and the impact of the recession locally, means that over the next few years the council faces

serious financial constraint and rising customer expectations. Since the strategy was launched detailed research, analysis and consultation with staff and members has identified eight strands of activity where there is most scope to realise efficiency savings and achieve improvement. These are:

- Service transformation and review
- Civic centre and property management
- Better procurement, commissioning and contract management
- Delivering the One Council proposals
- New and more flexible ways of working
- Stopping lower priority activities
- Increased income generation
- Independent review of structure and staffing

3.3 The action plan sets out a programme of projects designed to reconfigure the way in which the council provides services to the public while achieving substantial efficiencies and effective service delivery. The projects, which are set out on page 12 onwards of the attached plan are divided into gold, silver and bronze depending on their strategic importance and their ability to deliver savings. Savings targets and timescales have been included.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 None

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 None

6.0 Diversity Implications

6.1 None

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)

7.1 None

Background Papers

Brent's Improvement and Efficiency Strategy

Contact Officers

Phil Newby, Director of Policy & Regeneration

Phil.newby@brent.gov.uk

Cathy Tyson, Assistant Director, Policy

Cathy.tyson@brent.gov.uk